

## CLAIMS

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- [c1] 1. A method for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, the method comprising:
- receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;
  - comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
  - granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving includes receiving the request from a push-to-talk (PTT) device.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the priority levels are dynamically assigned.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, further including:
- interrupting the first communication device after said granting floor control to the second communication device.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, further including:
- informing participating communication devices in the network that the second communication device has the floor control.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1, wherein if the second communication device has a lower priority level, informing the second communication device that it has been denied floor control.
- [c7] 7. A method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:
- receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;
  - placing the first communication in a wake-up state;
  - receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving includes receiving the request from a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the priority levels are dynamically assigned.

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[c10] 10. The method of claim 7, further including:  
bringing the first communication device out of the wake-up state after said granting floor control to the second communication device.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 7, further including:  
informing participating communication devices in the network that the second communication device has been placed in the wake-up state.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 7, wherein if the second communication device has a lower priority level, informing the second communication device that it has been denied floor control.

[c13] 13. A computer-readable medium embodying a method for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, the method comprising:

receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

[c14] 14. A computer-readable medium embodying a method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;  
placing the first communication in a wake-up state;  
receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;  
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and  
placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

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[c15] 15. An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, comprising:

means for receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;  
means for comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and  
means for granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

[c16] 16. An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, comprising:

means for receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;  
means for placing the first communication in a wake-up state;  
means for receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;  
means for comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and  
means for placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

[c17] 17. An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, comprising:  
a receiver to receive information over the network;

a transmitter to transmit information over the network; and  
a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;  
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and  
granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

[c18] 18. An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, comprising:

a receiver to receive information over the network;  
a transmitter to transmit information over the network; and  
a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;  
placing the first communication in a wake-up state;  
receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;  
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and  
placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.